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TO: ISSUE FEE
Examiner Bonck, Rodney H.
Application No. 10/614,421
Attorney Docket No. 132781

Fax: (703) 746-4000

FROM: Christopher N. George
Fax: 312/775-8100

DATE: January 18, 2005
Matter: Our File No.: 1194-14976USP1

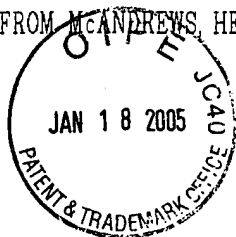
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MESSAGE:
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Message: Attached are Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the Application of:

John M. Simmons

Application No.: 10/614,421

Filed: July 7, 2003

For: RELEASE MECHANISM FOR
ENABLING MANUAL
MANIPULATION OF A
MOTORIZED C-ARM

Examiner: Rodney Bonck

Group Art Unit: 3681

Attorney Docket No.: 132781
(14976US02)**CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION***I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (FAX No. (703) 746-4000) on January 18, 2005.**Christopher N. George**Signature***COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Examiner Bonck:

The Applicant respectfully requests that the following Comments on the reasons
for allowance be added to the file.

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REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 12, 13 and 15-17 are allowed. The Applicant appreciates the Examiners allowance of these claims and respectfully submits the following Comments on the Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

The Applicant respectfully submits that the Reasons for Allowance may potentially import interpretations into the claims in relation to the prior art that are unnecessarily limited and may place unwarranted interpretations upon the claims.

Such a characterization of the claims in view of the prior art may not properly take into account the Applicant's claimed invention as reflected in the claims, the specification and the prosecution history of the present application. Applicant believes that the claims, the specification, and the prosecution history in their entirety provide an adequate basis for the allowability of the claims.

Additionally, specific parts of the Examiner's reasons for allowance may pertain to limitations appearing in some of the claims, but not others of the claims. The Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has thoroughly examined the claims, recognized the limitations appearing or not appearing in each of the claims, and properly found the claims to be allowable based on the record.

For example, the present allowed claims include independent claims 2, 6, 7, 12, 13, 16, and 17. The Examiner seems to suggest that claim 1 is also allowable. The Examiner recited in the reasons for allowance that the allowed claims include the

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limitation that the clutch release mechanism has the claimed first, second, and third rings connected and operating as recited in these claims. However, claim 1 does not recite first, second, and third rings. Additionally, claims 2, 6, 7, 12, 13, 16, and 17 do not recite the limitation that the clutch release mechanism has the claimed first, second and third rings. Instead, claims 2, 6, 7, 12, 13, 16, and 17 do recite the limitation that the clutch mechanism has the claimed first, second and third rings connected and operating as recited in the claims.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims 2, 6, 7, 12, 13, 16, and 17 were correctly distinguished from the prior art by the Examiner and are indeed allowable on other grounds.

Additionally, the present allowed independent claims include claims 5 and 15. The Examiner recited in the reasons for allowance that the allowed claims include the limitation that the clutch release mechanism includes a ramp and a clutch handle as recited in the claims. Claims 5 and 15 also include the limitation that the clutch release mechanism includes a support block as recited in the claims, which is not taught or suggested by the prior art.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims 5 and 15 were correctly distinguished from the prior art by the Examiner and are indeed allowable on other grounds.


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CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicant can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Applicant at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher N. George
Registration No. 51,728
Attorney for Applicant

Date: January 18, 2005

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